MARVEL
AARON
CASSADAY
MARTIN
003
STAR WARS

Book 1, Part III

SKYWALKER STRIKES

It is a period of renewed hope for the Rebellion. The evil Galactic Empire's greatest weapon, the Death Star, has been destroyed, and now the Rebel Alliance looks to press its advantage by unleashing a daring offensive throughout the far reaches of space.

Princess Leia Organa has led a covert team of rebels in an attack on Cymoon 1, the largest weapons factory in the galaxy. But after rigging the factory's main power core to explode and rescuing dozens of innocent slave workers, their escape plan was thwarted by the unexpected arrival of Darth Vader.

Now the rebels must fight their way to freedom, using the Empire's own vehicles as their means of escape. And Luke Skywalker must remain one step ahead of the unstoppable Lord Vader, who is beginning to take an interest in the young rebel pilot....

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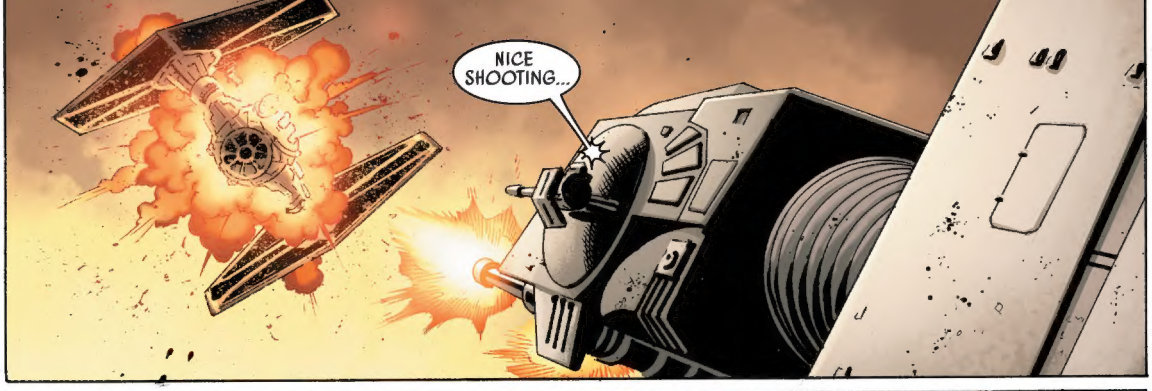
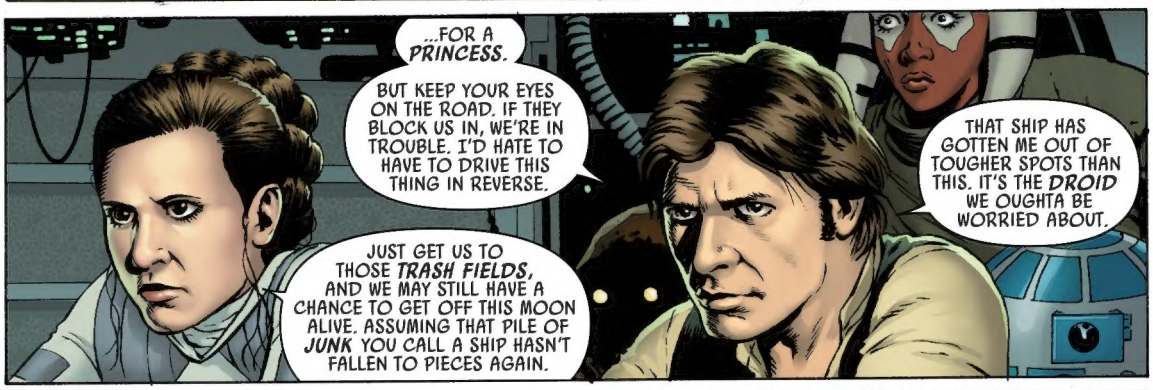
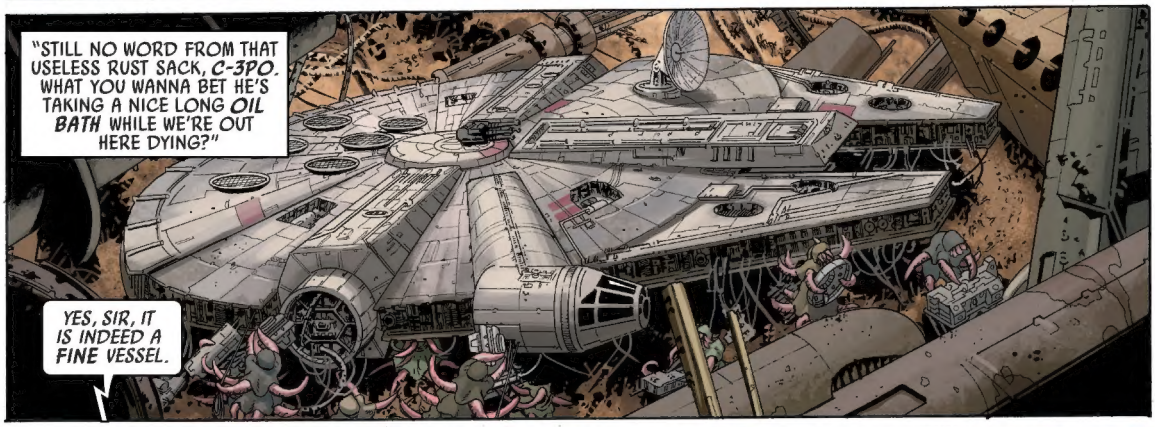
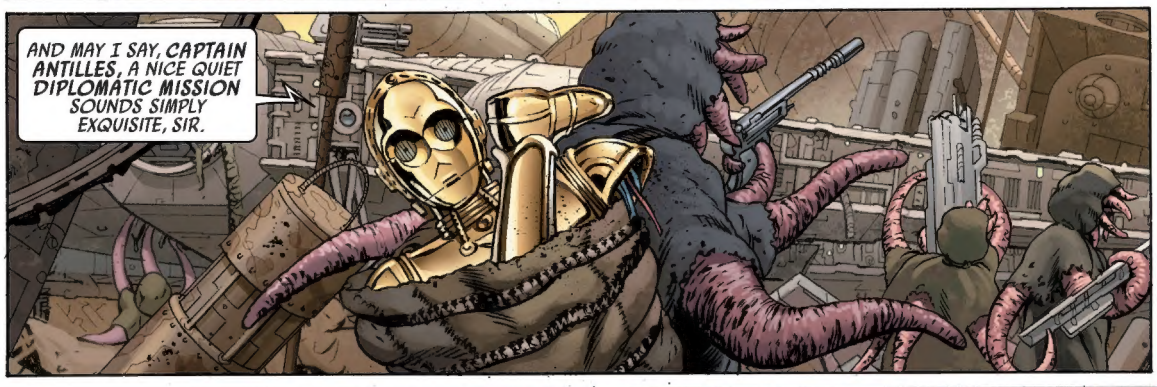
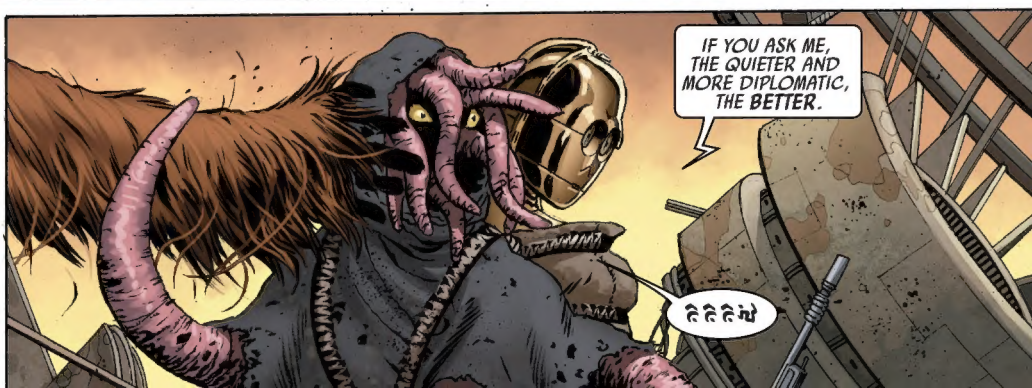

NICE SHOOTING...

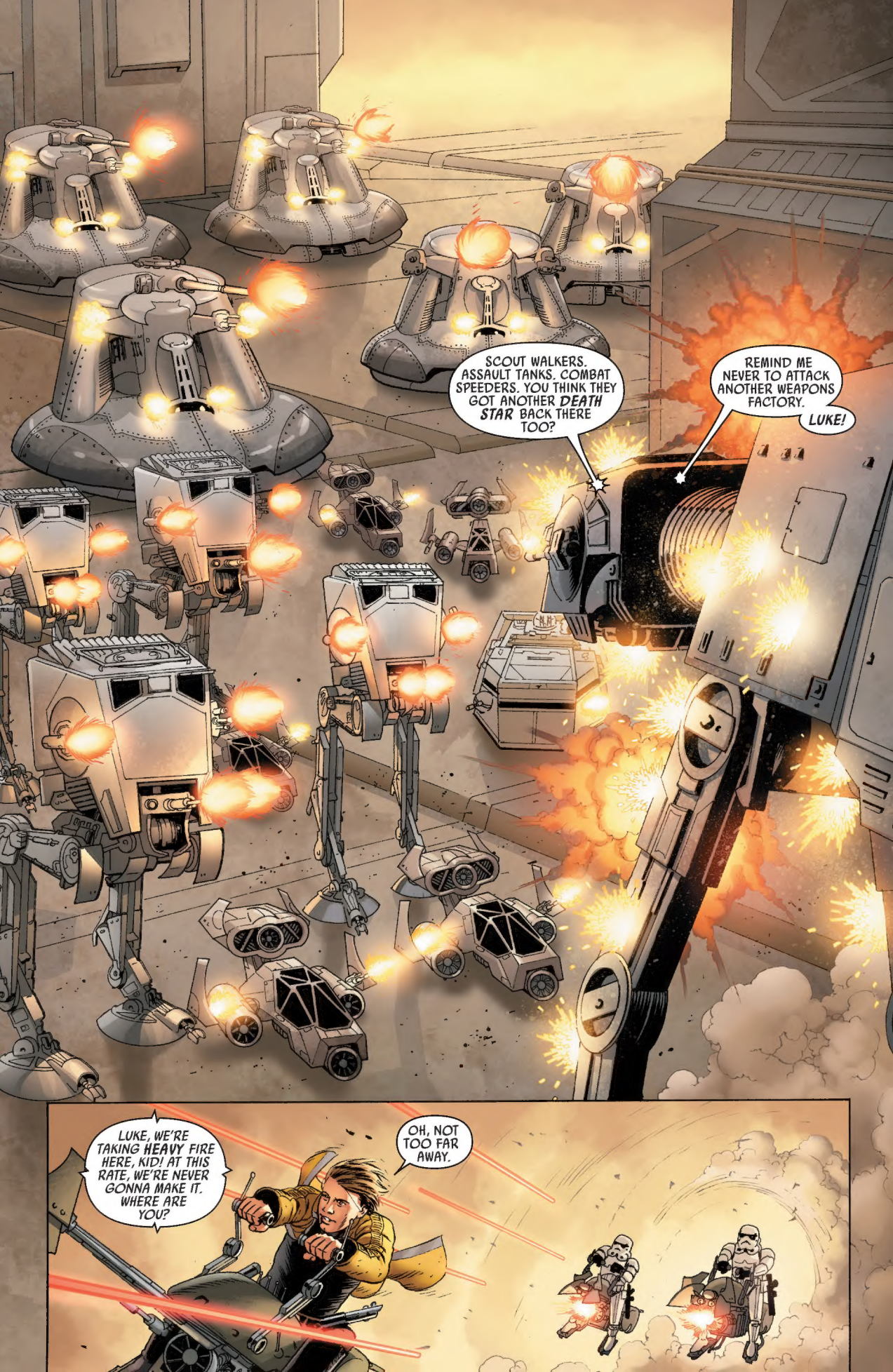

...FOR A PRINCESS.
BUT KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE ROAD. IF THEY BLOCK US IN, WE'RE IN TROUBLE. I'D HATE TO HAVE TO DRIVE THIS THING IN REVERSE.
THAT SHIP HAS GOTTEN ME OUT OF TOUGHER SPOTS THAN THIS. IT'S THE DROID WE OUGHTA BE WORRIED ABOUT.
JUST GET US TO THOSE TRASH FIELDS, AND WE MAY STILL HAVE A CHANCE TO GET OFF THIS MOON ALIVE. ASSUMING THAT PILE OF JUNK YOU CALL A SHIP HASN'T FALLEN TO PIECES AGAIN.

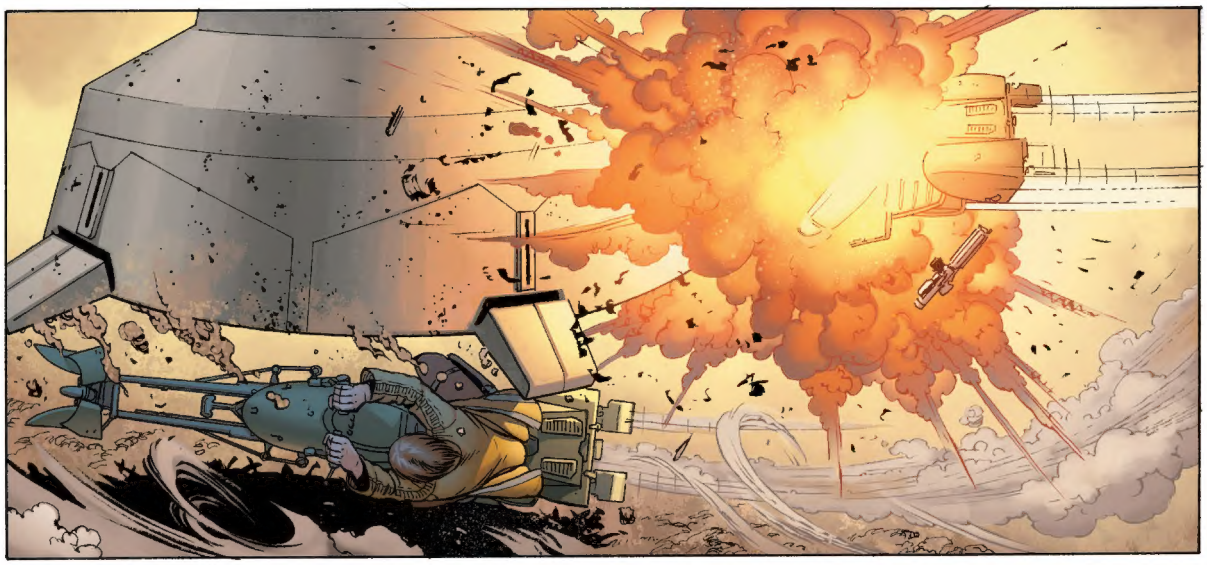

"STILL NO WORD FROM THAT USELESS RUST SACK, C-3PO. WHAT YOU WANNA BET HE'S TAKING A NICE LONG OIL BATH WHILE WE'RE OUT HERE DYING?"
YES, SIR, IT IS INDEED A FINE VESSEL.

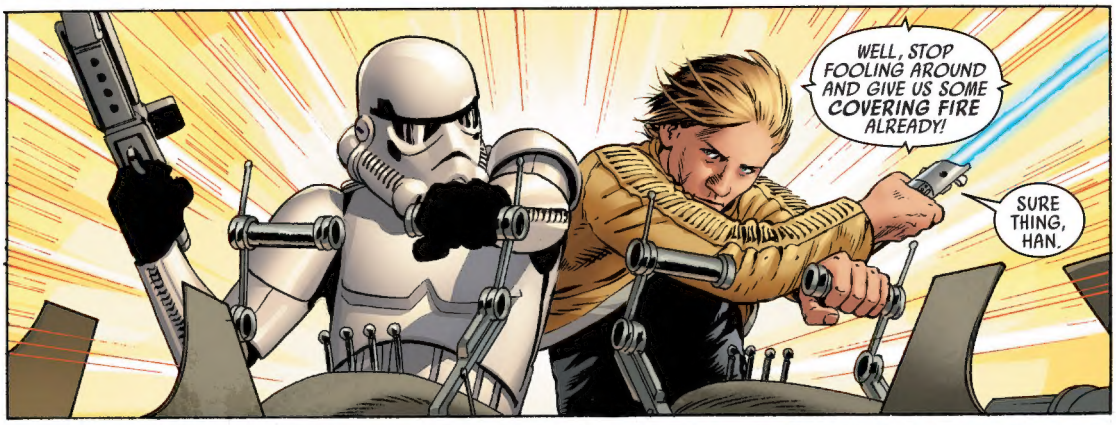

AND MAY I SAY, CAPTAIN ANTILLES, A NICE QUIET DIPLOMATIC MISSION SOUNDS SIMPLY EXQUISITE, SIR.

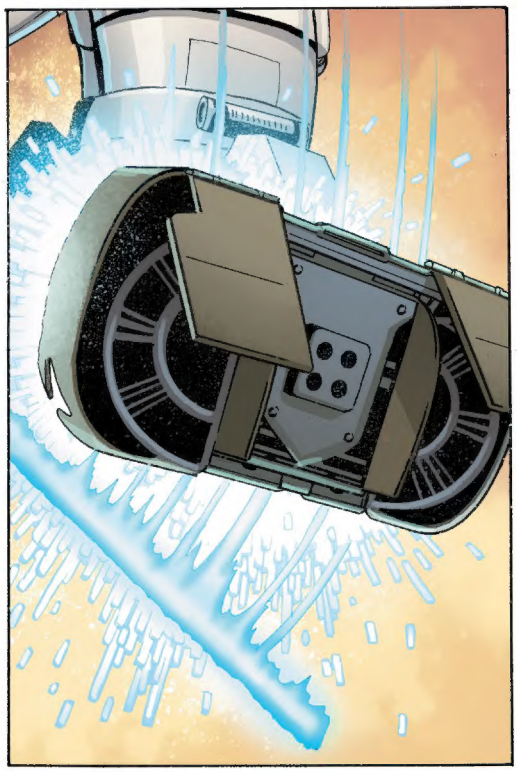

IF YOU ASK ME, THE QUIETER AND MORE DIPLOMATIC, THE BETTER.

!!ꝏꝏꝏꝏꝏ
HHHRRRRRRRGRHHH
FRANKLY, SIR...I'VE NEVER MUCH CARED FOR EITHER ACTION OR ADVENTURE.
RRRRGGHH!!
CHEWIE!
I KNEW YOU WEREN'T DEAD, YOU OLD FURBALL! GET THE FALCON IN THE AIR AND COME GET US, PAL. WE'RE HEADED RIGHT FOR THE--
HAN, LOOK OUT!


SCOUT WALKERS. ASSAULT TANKS. COMBAT SPEEDERS. YOU THINK THEY GOT ANOTHER DEATH STAR BACK THERE TOO?
REMIND ME NEVER TO ATTACK ANOTHER WEAPONS FACTORY.
LUKE!
LUKE, WE'RE TAKING HEAVY FIRE HERE, KID! AT THIS RATE, WE'RE NEVER GONNA MAKE IT. WHERE ARE YOU?
OH, NOT TOO FAR AWAY.

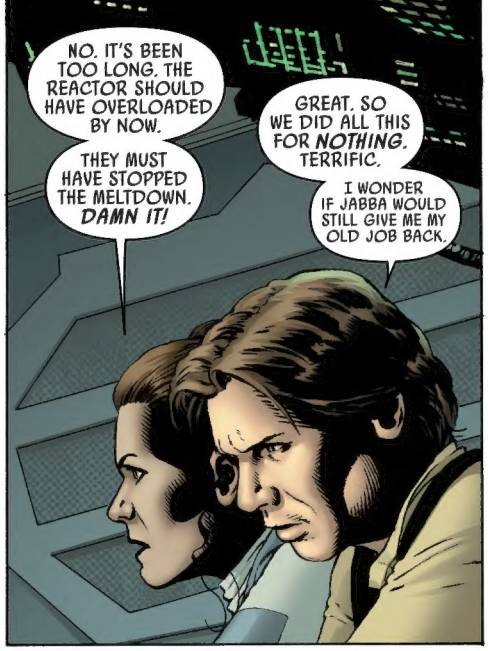



WELL, STOP FOOLING AROUND AND GIVE US SOME COVERING FIRE ALREADY!
SURE THING, HAN.

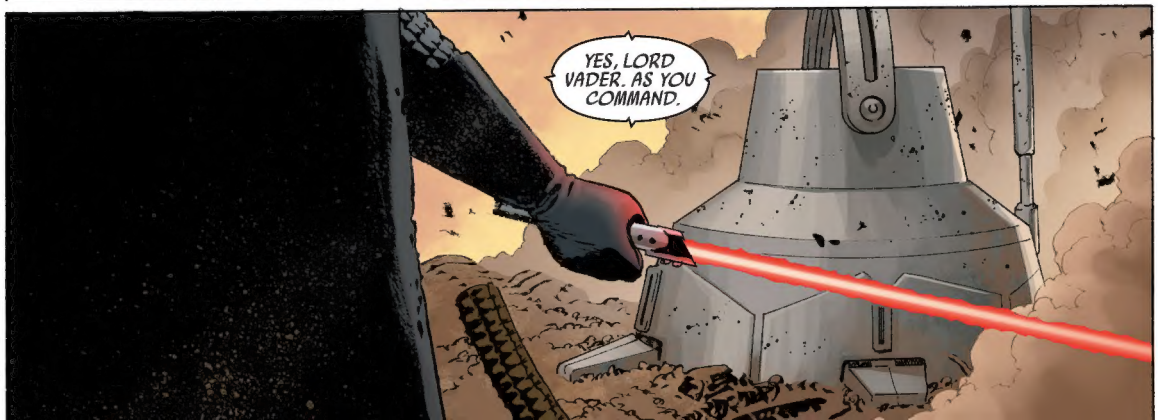


HURRY UP, KID, THEY JUST TRIED TO BLOW UP ONE OF OUR LEGS!
I'M HURRYING.

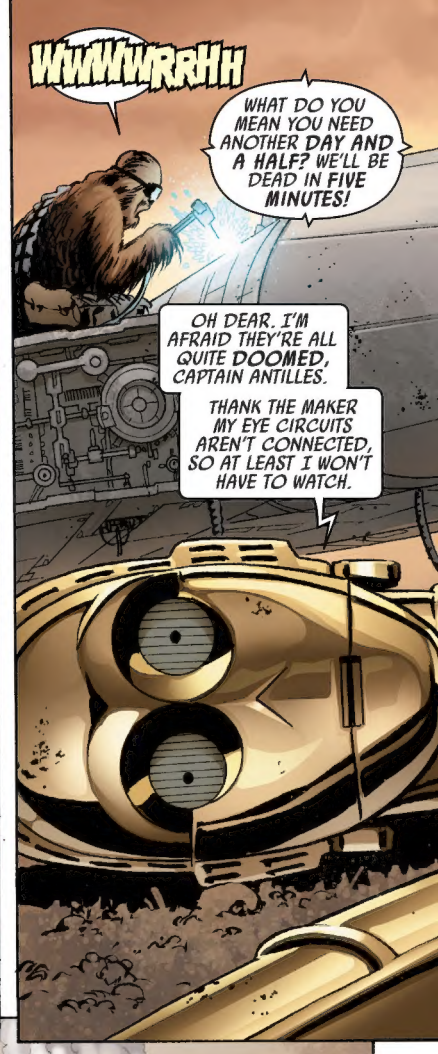
AND DON'T GET TOO CLOSE TO THAT FACTORY, LUKE. THAT WHOLE THING'S GONNA EXPLODE ANY SECOND NOW.

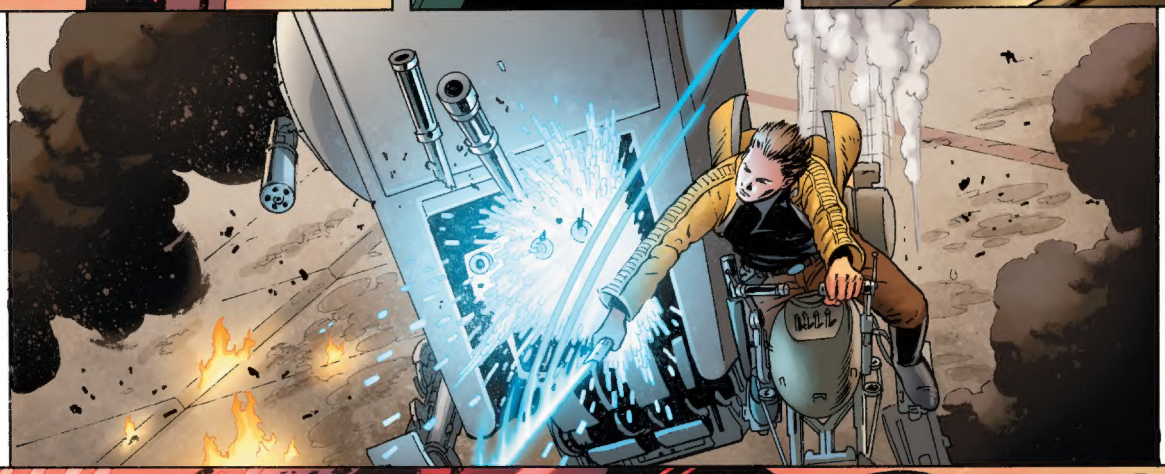

NO. IT'S BEEN TOO LONG. THE REACTOR SHOULD HAVE OVERLOADED BY NOW.
THEY MUST HAVE STOPPED THE MELTDOWN. DAMN IT!
GREAT. SO WE DID ALL THIS FOR NOTHING. TERRIFIC.
I WONDER IF JABBA WOULD STILL GIVE ME MY OLD JOB BACK.

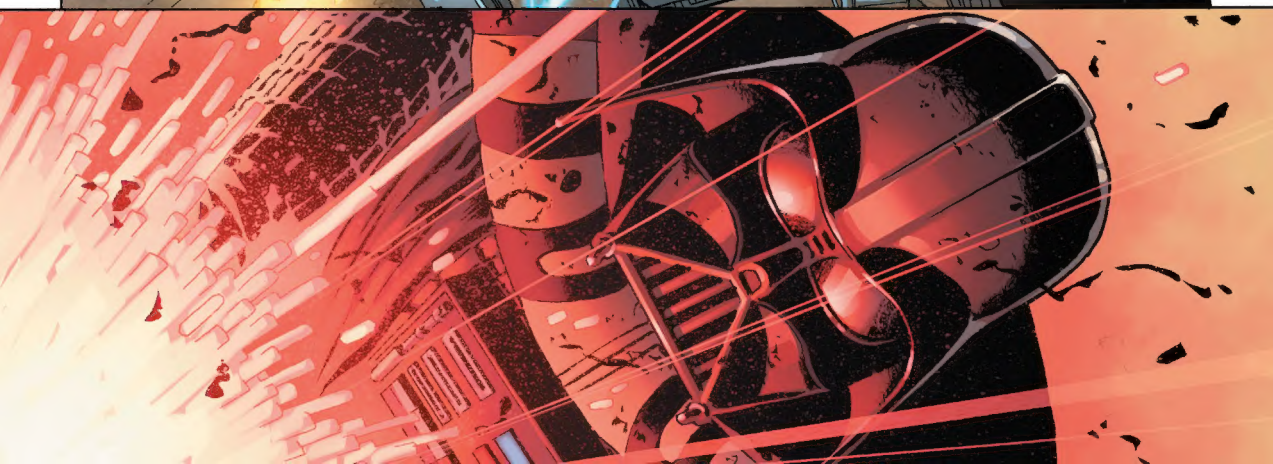
LORD VADER, THIS IS OVERSEER AGGADEEN. I'M HAPPY TO REPORT, SIR, THAT WE'VE MANAGED TO HALT THE REACTOR'S MELTDOWN. THE FACTORY IS SAFE.
THEN PERHAPS YOU MIGHT YET LIVE TO SEE TOMORROW, OVERSEER.
SEND MORE TROOPS TO MY LOCATION. SEND EVERYONE WHO CAN HOLD A BLASTER. THE REBELS MUST NOT ESCAPE.

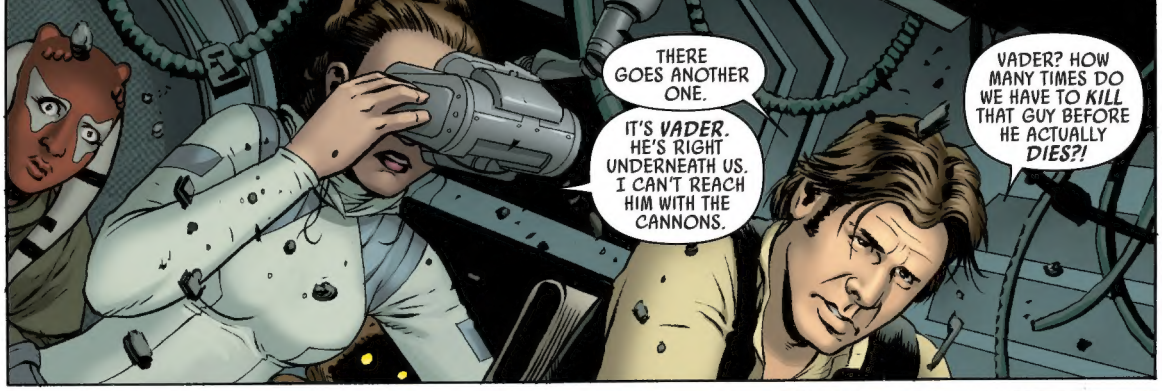

YES, LORD VADER. AS YOU COMMAND.

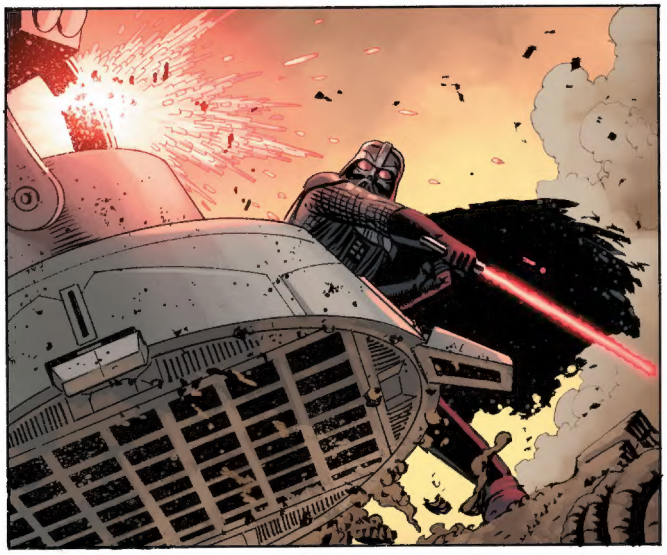
WHOA. WHAT WAS THAT?
WE JUST LOST ONE OF THE RIGHT REAR ANKLE COUPLINGS.
CHEWIE! TELL ME YOU'RE IN THE AIR.


WWWWRRHH
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU NEED ANOTHER DAY AND A HALF? WE'LL BE DEAD IN FIVE MINUTES!
OH DEAR. I'M AFRAID THEY'RE ALL QUITE DOOMED, CAPTAIN ANTILLES.
THANK THE MAKER MY EYE CIRCUITS AREN'T CONNECTED, SO AT LEAST I WON'T HAVE TO WATCH.

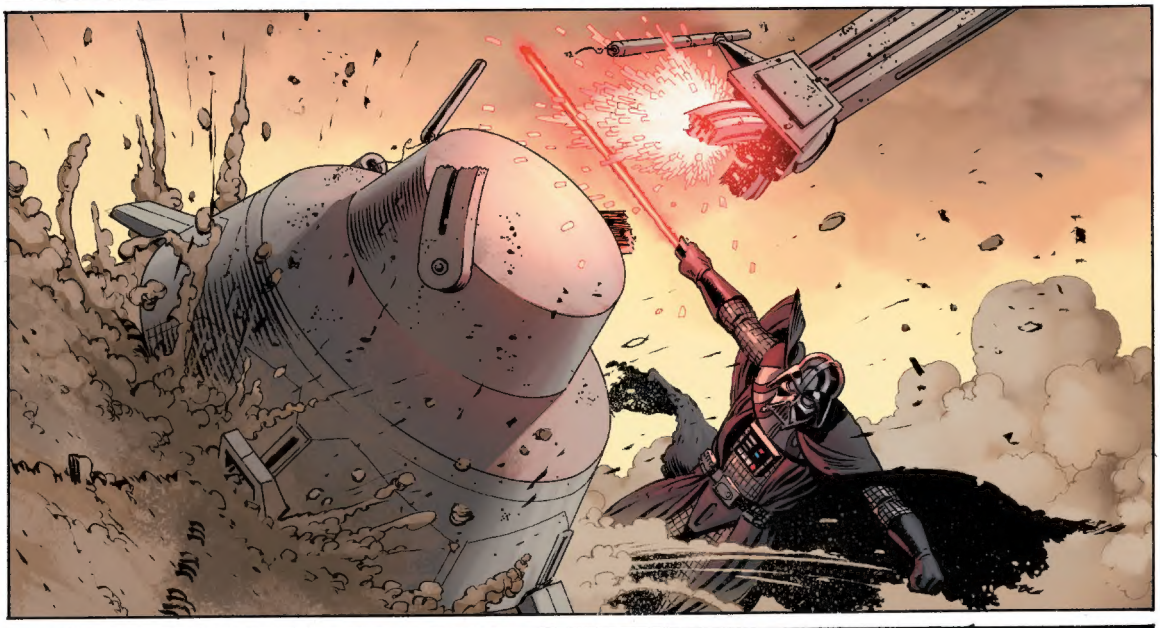





THERE GOES ANOTHER ONE.
IT'S VADER. HE'S RIGHT UNDERNEATH US. I CAN'T REACH HIM WITH THE CANNONS.
VADER? HOW MANY TIMES DO WE HAVE TO KILL THAT GUY BEFORE HE ACTUALLY DIES?!

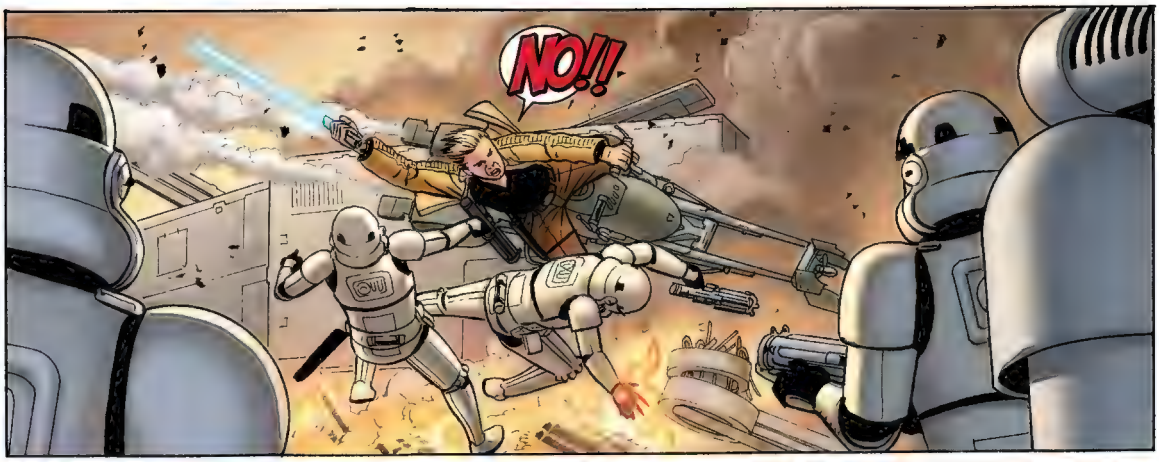


IT'S VADER, ALL RIGHT. I SEE HIM. I'M ON MY WAY.
NO, KID, STAY BACK.
WE'VE TAKEN TOO MUCH FIRE. THE DRIVE CONTROL SYSTEMS ARE SHOT. I'M GONNA TRY TO SET HER DOWN, BUT IT MAY NOT BE...
NO...



HAN...
LEIA...

THE WALKER HAS FALLEN.
MOVE IN FOR THE KILL.


NO!!

RUN!
RUN FOR THE TRASH FIELDS!

THE SLAVES ARE NOTHING. I WANT THOSE REBELS.

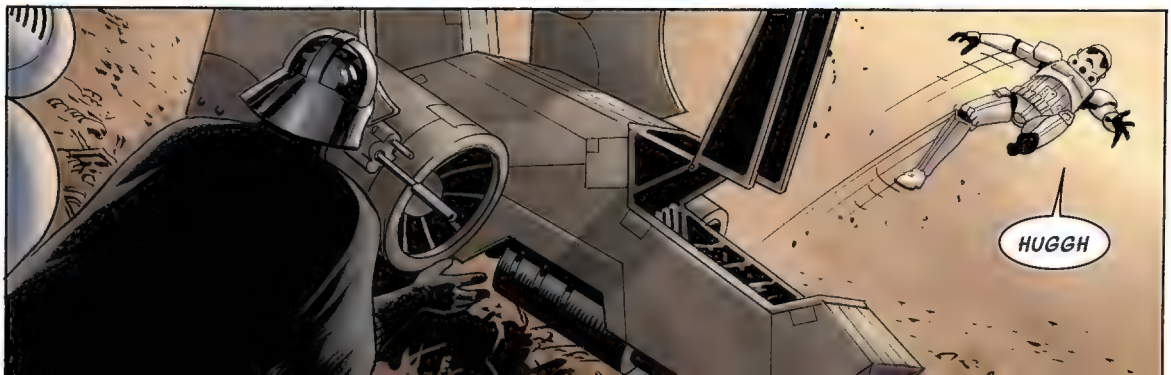
KEEP GOING! MOVE!

LUKE! COME ON!
I CAN'T, LEIA. I CAN'T LET THIS ALL BE FOR NOTHING.

LUKE, GET OFF THAT SPEEDER! THAT'S AN ORDER!
DON'T WAIT FOR ME.

LUKE!

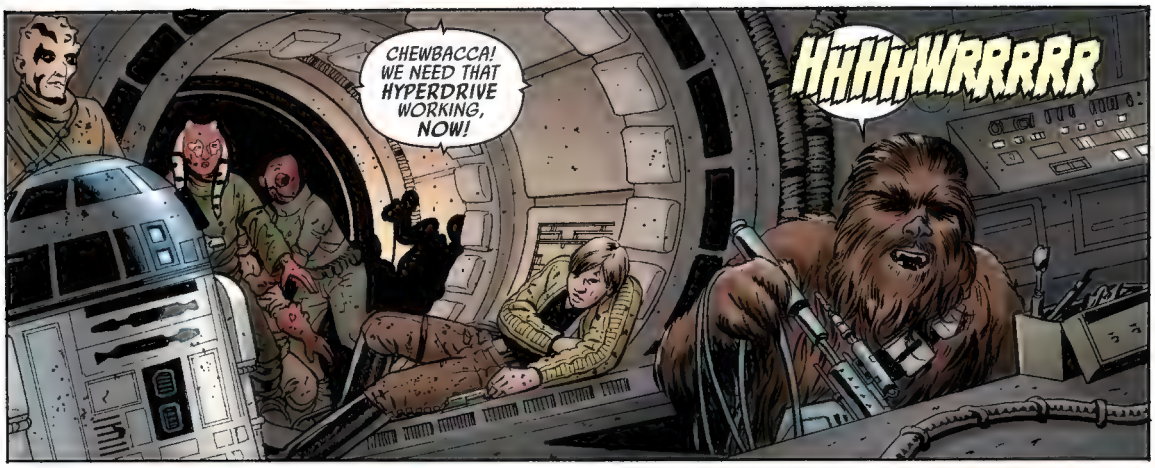
THEY'VE ENTERED THE TRASH FIELDS. THE *TIE BOMBERS* WILL TAKE THEM OUT NOW.
SIR, THERE APPEARS TO BE A REBEL HEADED BACK TOWARD THE FACTORY. SHOULD WE...
GO AFTER THE OTHERS.


HUGGH

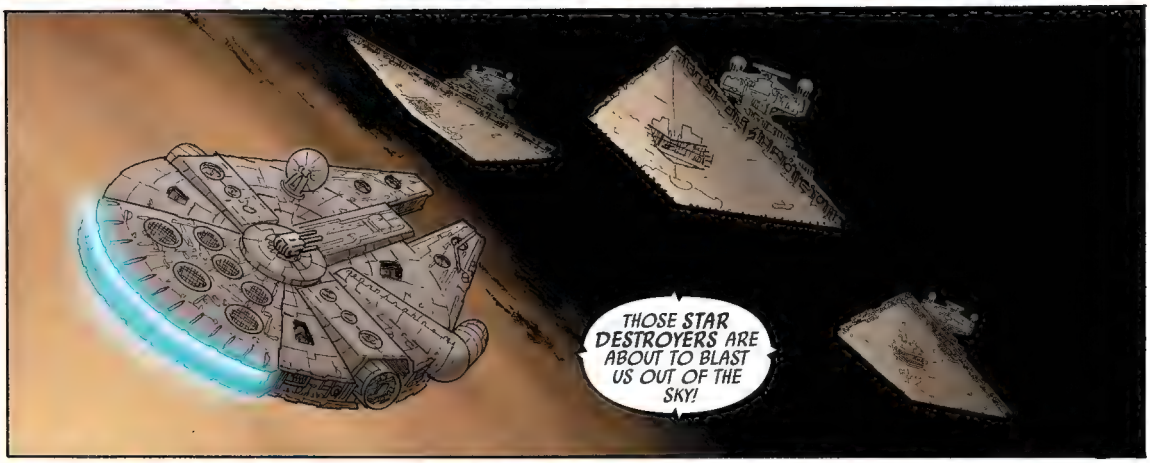
NOT THIS TIME, BOY.
YOU WILL NOT OUTRUN ME AGAIN.

CATASTROPHE HAS BEEN AVERTED, OVERSEER. THE POWER CORE IS BACK TO NORMAL LEVELS. ALL SAFETY RESTRAINTS HAVE BEEN RESTORED.
THANK THE STARS. THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE.
WARNING. POWER CORE OVERLOAD DETECTED.
NO... THIS CAN'T HAPPEN.
LORD VADER WILL HAVE MY--

I'M HIT!
I'LL NEVER MAKE IT!
I'M SORRY, FATHER.
SORRY I'LL NEVER BE THE JEDI YOU WERE.


CHEWBACCA! WE NEED THAT HYPERDRIVE WORKING, NOW!
HHHHWRRRRR

WHAT DID HE SAY?
UUUGHHH.
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT HE SAID.
CHEWIE, WE'RE OUT OF TIME!


THOSE STAR DESTROYERS ARE ABOUT TO BLAST US OUT OF THE SKY!

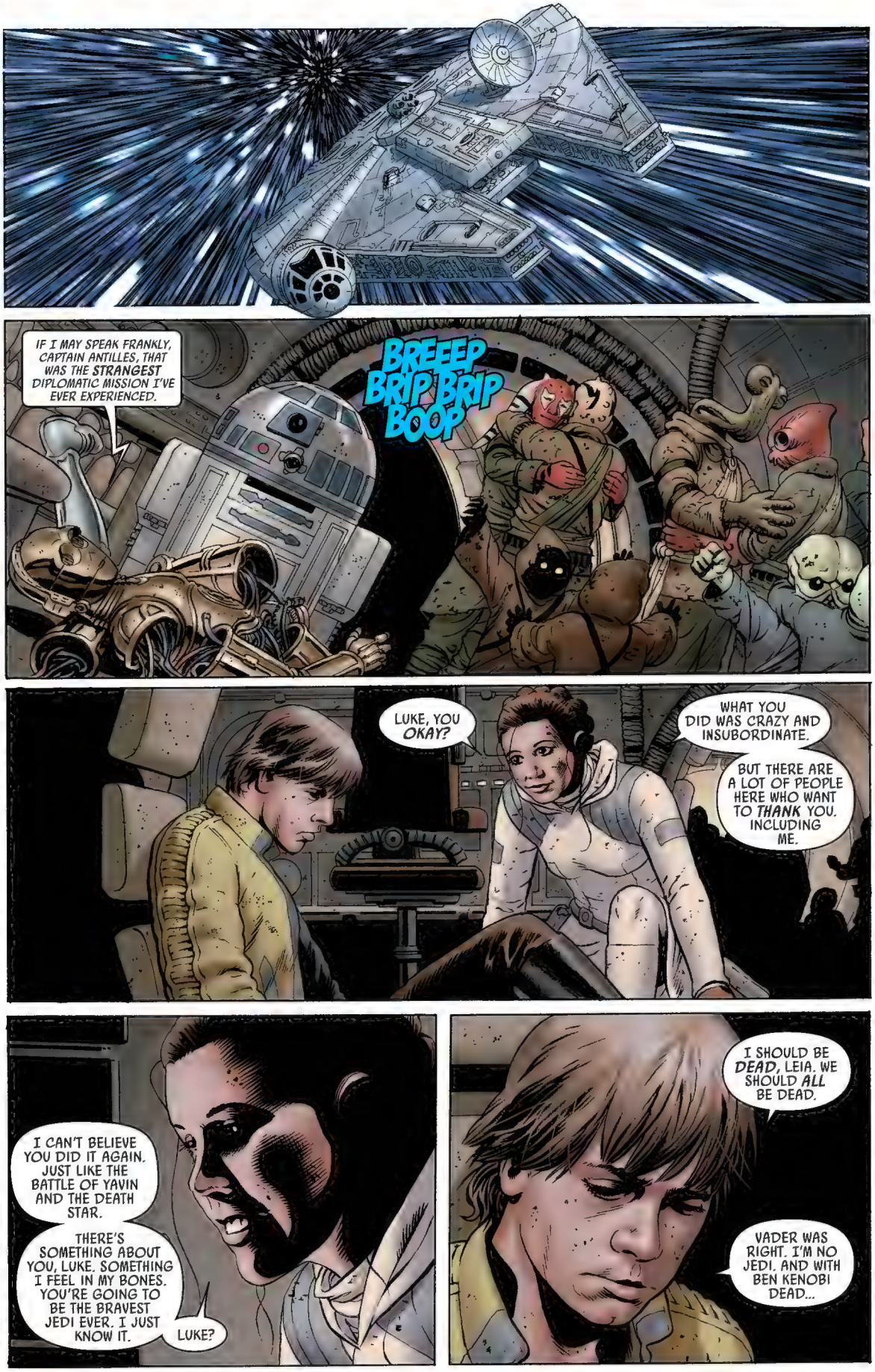
I'M MAKING THE JUMP TO LIGHT-SPEED.
PLEASE LET THIS SHIP WORK THE WAY IT'S SUPPOSED TO... JUST THIS ONCE.

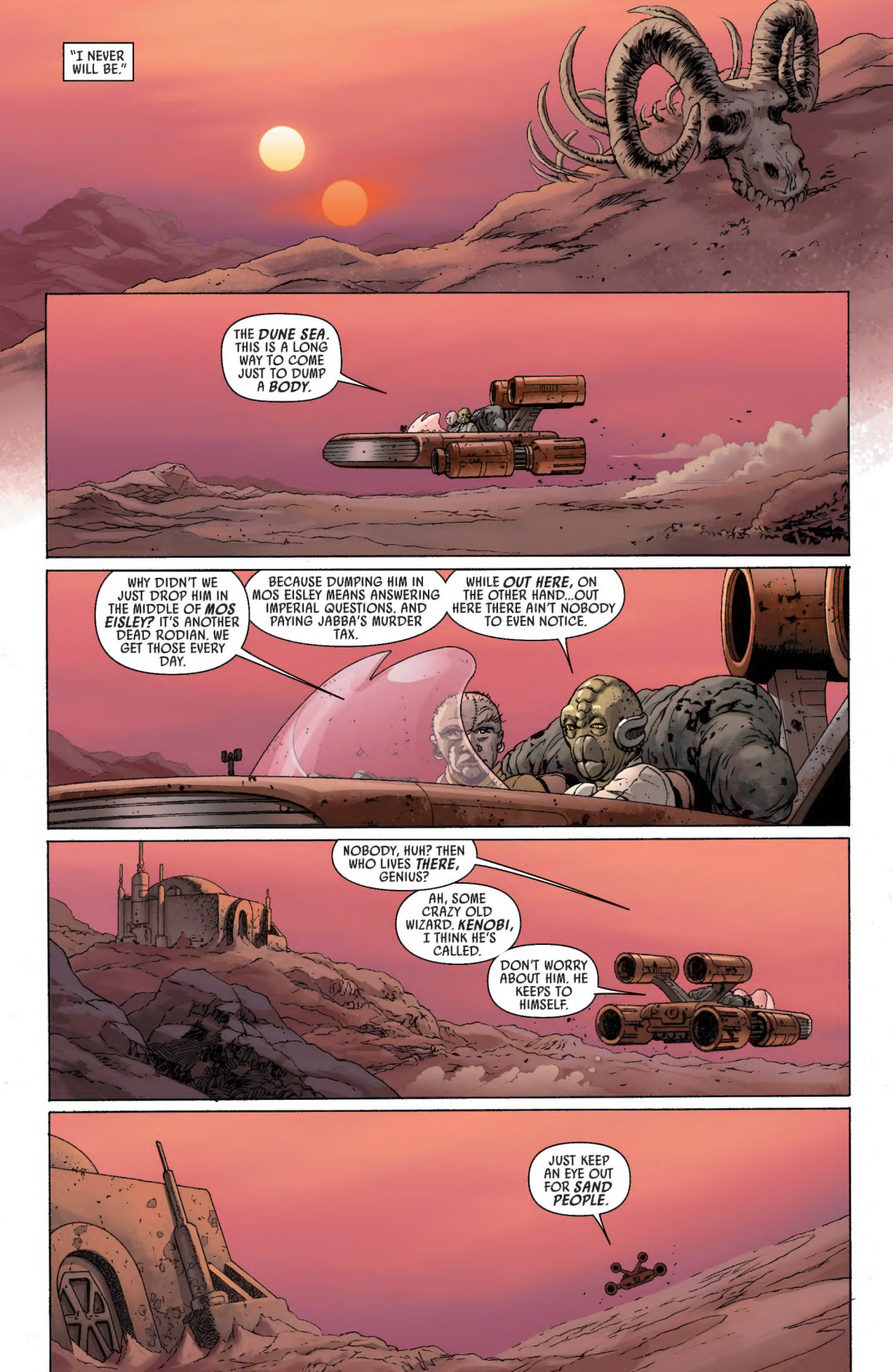
MAYBE THIS SHIP ISN'T SO BAD AFTER ALL. YOU'LL NEVER REMEMBER I SAID THAT, WILL YOU?
HUUGGGGH.
IS IT WRONG THAT I LIKE YOU BETTER THIS WAY?

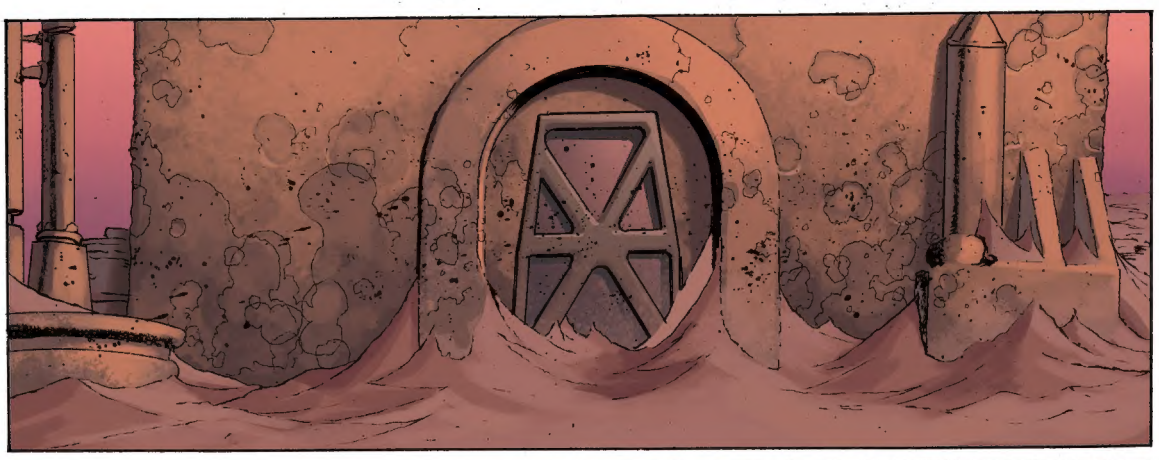
LORD VADER... THIS IS CAPTAIN KRONN OF THE STAR DESTROYER ADJUDICATOR.
SIR, I REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT... THAT THE REBEL SHIP HAS ELUDED THE BLOCKADE. IT APPEARS THAT THEY--
HGGGHK...GGGHKK... ARRRRRGGGHHHKKK...

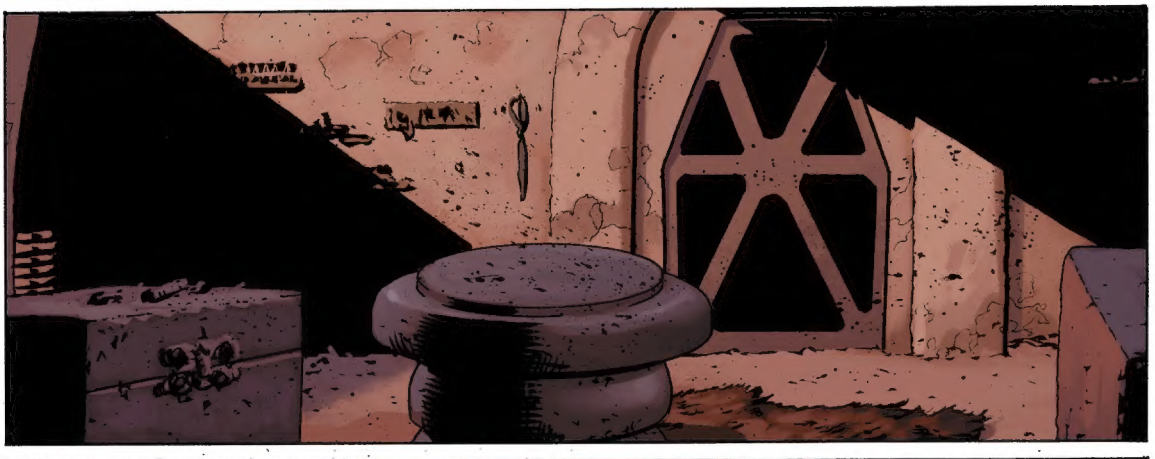
THE BOY.
THE BOY IS YOUR LAST GREAT HOPE, ISN'T HE, OBI-WAN? HE IS WHAT YOU DIED TO PROTECT.
HE MAY BE STRONG IN THE FORCE, BUT HE IS UNTRAINED. AND WHO IS THERE LEFT TO TRAIN HIM NOW?
NO ONE BUT ME.

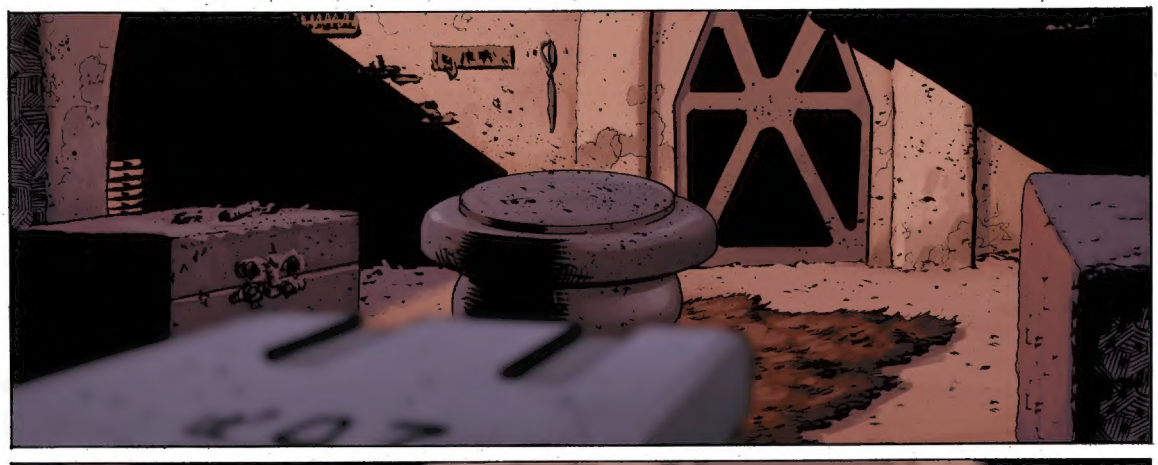
WHEN I FIND HIM...AND I WILL FIND HIM...HE WILL BE MY WEAPON, NOT YOURS.
THE DARK SIDE ALWAYS WINS, OBI-WAN. YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT BY NOW.

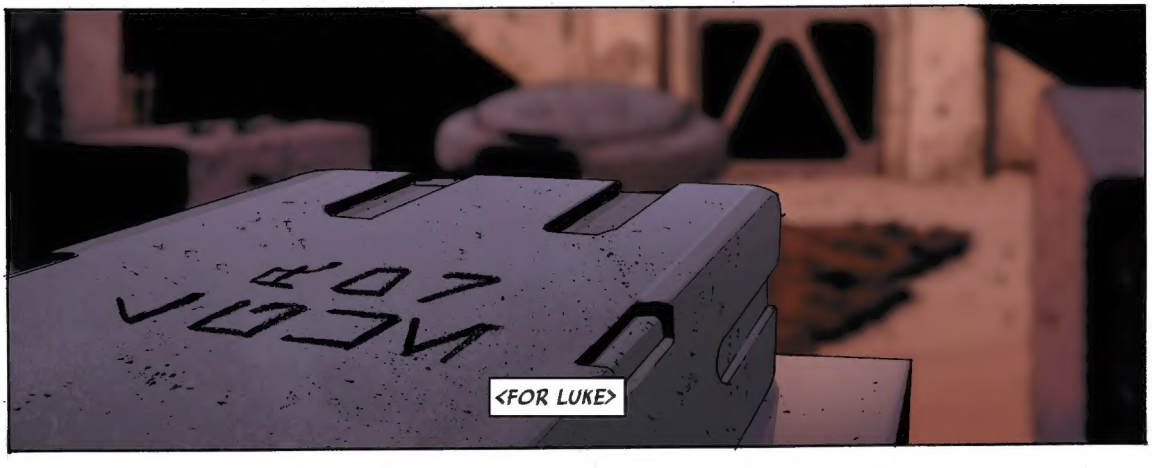

IF I MAY SPEAK FRANKLY, CAPTAIN ANTILLES, THAT WAS THE STRANGEST DIPLOMATIC MISSION I'VE EVER EXPERIENCED.
BREEEP BRIP BRIP BOOP
LUKE, YOU OKAY?
WHAT YOU DID WAS CRAZY AND INSUBORDINATE.
BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE HERE WHO WANT TO THANK YOU, INCLUDING ME.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DID IT AGAIN, JUST LIKE THE BATTLE OF YAVIN AND THE DEATH STAR.
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT YOU, LUKE. SOMETHING I FEEL IN MY BONES. YOU'RE GOING TO BE THE BRAVEST JEDI EVER. I JUST KNOW IT.
LUKE?
I SHOULD BE DEAD, LEIA. WE SHOULD ALL BE DEAD.
VADER WAS RIGHT. I'M NO JEDI. AND WITH BEN KENOBI DEAD...


"I NEVER WILL BE."
THE DUNE SEA. THIS IS A LONG WAY TO COME JUST TO DUMP A BODY.
WHY DIDN'T WE JUST DROP HIM IN THE MIDDLE OF MOS EISLEY? IT'S ANOTHER DEAD RODIAN. WE GET THOSE EVERY DAY.
BECAUSE DUMPING HIM IN MOS EISLEY MEANS ANSWERING IMPERIAL QUESTIONS. AND PAYING JABBA'S MURDER TAX.
WHILE OUT HERE, ON THE OTHER HAND...OUT HERE THERE AIN'T NOBODY TO EVEN NOTICE.
NOBODY, HUH? THEN WHO LIVES THERE, GENIUS?
AH, SOME CRAZY OLD WIZARD. KENOBI, I THINK HE'S CALLED.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM. HE KEEPS TO HIMSELF.
JUST KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR SAND PEOPLE.








<FOR LUKE>

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